

Maine Educational Assessment: Grade 8 Writing
Strategies for Classroom Instruction

What are the essential elements required for a student to do well on the MEA writing assessment?

Students must demonstrate the ability to:

Read and comprehend text, draw a conclusion, and state a position

Determine useful, relevant evidence from text

Organize information for most effective presentation

Determine most effective strategies for developing personal style and voice

Use a variety of sentence structures, with progressive levels of complexity (across papers)

Demonstrate accurate use of grammar and mechanics

OTHERS:

What activities will help develop these skills?

Read text and summarize

Annotate text to indicate major points, key evidence, useful ideas

Use various organizational strategies including outlining, bubble mapping, and color coding

Discuss points of view and test conclusions

Plan, draft, proofread, conference, and revise writing

Participate in directed peer editing

Other activities to support the opportunity to learn necessary skills for MEA-type writing: